

PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLIC DOCUMENTS,
ETC.

APRIL 26, 1904.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. PERKINS, from the Committee on Printing, submitted the
following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 15225.]

The Committee on Printing, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 15225) relating to the printing and distribution of public documents, and for other purposes, submit the following report:

This bill is introduced at the request of the employees in the document room, and also of the superintendent of documents. By some inadvertence in the present law the full number of reports on private bills is required, and over 1,800 copies are printed. It is rarely there is any demand for any considerable number of them, and the most of them are thrown away. The superintendent of documents is required to bind and send out to the various libraries 500 copies of these reports. They fill many volumes every year; they are of no value, and they encumber the shelves except as they are sold as waste.

By this bill the number of these reports is reduced to 260, which is all that is required.

Of private bills 250 are printed when they are introduced, but by some inadvertence in the law 625 copies are printed when reported, the same number as of a public bill. The unnecessary number of these private bills and reports are thrown away every day. The superintendent and employees of the document room of the House say that within the last ten years there has been thrown away more than 200 tons of this useless matter, which is an annoyance at the office and a waste of the Government money.

This bill will save several thousand dollars a year and will not interfere with the requirements of any member of the House. It is hoped, therefore, it will meet with no opposition, and the committee recommends that the bill be passed.